

NEW SPECIES OF VERNONIEAE (ASTERACEAE). I.

VERNONIA HARLINGII FROM ECUADOR.

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The Tribe Vernonieae can be characterized generally as having alternate leaves. Some exceptions occur, however, and some examples have been discussed by Robinson (1976) in conjunction with the description of *V. sparrei*, an opposite-leaved species of Loja in southern Ecuador. Recently, another opposite-leaved species has been encountered in a collection by Harling and Andersson in El Oro in southern Ecuador. As in the previous case, the opposite-leaved condition had resulted in the specimen being sent as a member of the Eupatorieae.

The new species is remarkably distinctive in both the leaves and the involucral bracts. As indicated, opposite leaves are found in a few other species of *Vernonia*, but the sessile broad bases of the leaves of the new species are almost perfoliate in appearance, and the blades are large for the genus. The involucral bracts are prominently ornamented with laciniate or split whitish indurated apices and upper margins. Such appendaged bracts seem most closely approached elsewhere in *Vernonia* by some of the Stengelioïd species of Africa (Smith, 1971), though the appendages of the latter are colored and thinner in texture. The combination of the leaves and involucre gives the new species a superficial resemblance to some members of the Tribe Inuleae, but the leaves are opposite and the flowers are Vernonian in all details. The new species may prove to be closest to *V. sparrei* H. Robins. and *V. trichotoma* Gleason, which also have opposite leaves, corymbose inflorescences, broad and obtuse involucral bracts, and anther appendages without glands, but their leaves are petiolate with smaller oblong blades, veins are prominulous on the upper surface, and the involucral bracts are unappendaged.

The species is named for the senior collector, Dr. Gunnar Harling, of the University of Göteborg, who is also editor of the "Flora of Ecuador" project.

Vernonia harlingii H. Robinson, sp. nov.

Plantae suffrutescentes pauce ramosae? 2 m altae. Caules brunnescentes subhexagonales striati dense hirtelli. Folia opposita sessilia; laminae papyraceae ovatae plerumque 10-20 cm longae et 5-10 cm latae base late rotundatae subamplexicaules margine subintegrae minute mucronato-denticulatae apice breviter acutae supra minute hispidulae subtus parce pilosulae et glandulo-punctatae, nervis pinnatis, nervis secundariis utrinque ca. 11, nervis et nervulis subtus albidis. Inflorescentiae terminales corymbosae, ramis dense hirtellis, ramis ultimis 3-10 mm longis. Capitula late campanulata 9-10 mm alta et 7-9 mm lata; squamae involucri ca. 30-35 persistentes subimbricatae 3-7 mm longae et 1-2 mm latae extus parce fulvo-tomentosae et minute glandulo-punctatae, bracteae 2-3 basilares ovatae inornatae extus sericeae cetera oblongae vel late lineares in apicem valde ornatae albo-alatae et laceratae, bracteae interiores sensim ornatissimae. Flores ca. 20 hermaphroditi. Corollae lavandulae extus breviter stipitato-glanduliferae, tubis ca. 4 mm longis in partibus cylindraceis 1 mm longis superne infundibularibus, fauca ca. 1 mm longis, lobis anguste lanceolatis ca. 3 mm longis et 0.7 mm latis; thecae antherarum ca. 2 mm longae inferne obtusae; appendices antherarum oblongae 0.5 mm longae et 0.25 mm latae non glanduliferae; basi stylorum noduliferi et annulate scleroidei, cellulis annularum subquadratis vel irregularibus plerumque 12-25 μ m in diametro. Achaenia immatura usque ad 2.5 mm longa et ca. 1 mm lata inferne glandulifera parce breviter spiculifera; carpopodia distincta ca. 0.2 mm longa et 0.4 mm lata, cellulis subquadratis vel breviter oblongis ca. 20 μ m latis, parietibus valde incrassatis; setae pappi interiores ca. 25 plerumque ca. 5 mm longae superne distincte latiores, cellulis apicalibus acutis, setae in sereibus exterioribus distinctae ca. 1 mm longae. Grana pollinis ca. 37 μ m in diametro leniter lophorata, cristis valde spiniferis.

TYPE: ECUADOR: El Oro: Road Pasajo - Santa Isabel - Girón, valley of Río Jubones, mountain rain forest to dry steppe vegetation, alt. ca. 1600 m.s.m. Shrub ca. 2 m high. Corolla bluish violet. 7 V 1974. G. Harling & L. Andersson 14408 (Holotype GB).

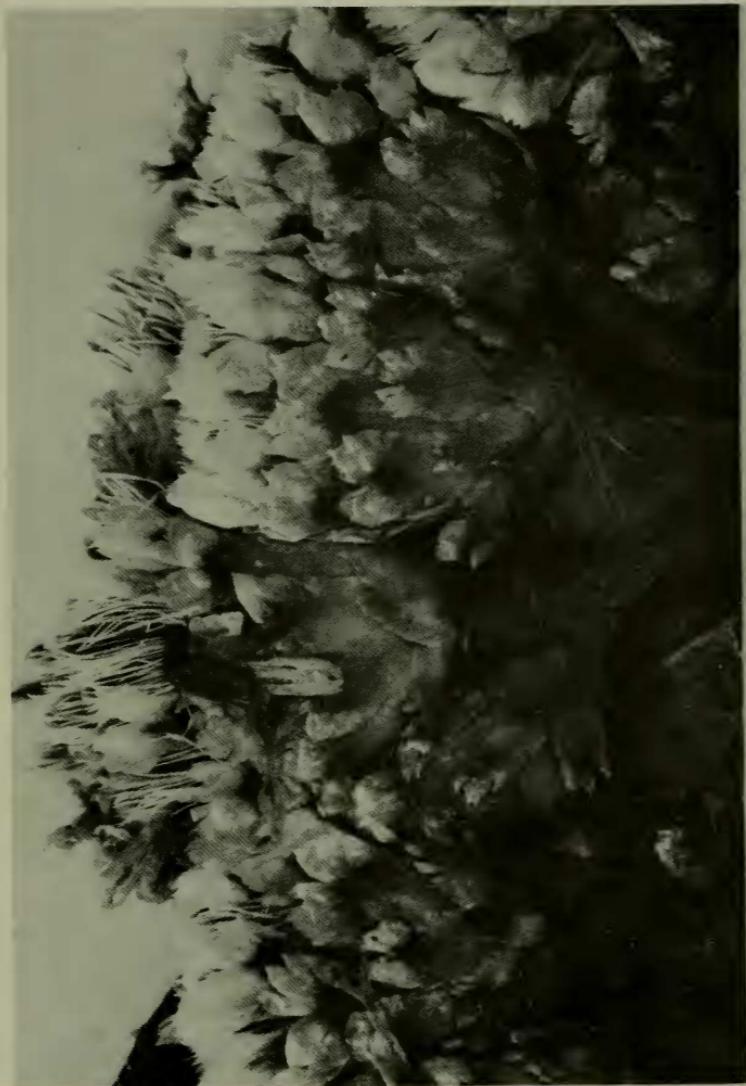
Literature Cited

Robinson, H. 1976. A new species of Vernonia from Ecuador. Phytologia 34 (3): 301-304.

Smith, C. Earle, Jr. 1871. Observations on Stengel-
ioid species of Vernonia. Agriculture Handbook
No. 396: 1-87.



Vernonia harlingii H. Robinson, Holotype, Göteborg,
Photo by Victor E. Krantz, Staff Photographer, National
Museum of Natural History.



Vernonia harlingii H. Robinson, enlargement of heads.